

## **International & Domestic Mark Equivalencies**

### **SPOT Qualifying Year Conversion Guide**

*For informational purposes only – subject to change without notice*

### **Table of Contents**

Summary.....	1
Conversion Steps .....	2
Determining Credit Weight .....	3
Special Circumstances .....	3
Alternative Canadian Scales .....	4
Link to International Scales.....	4
International Conversion Example .....	5

### **Summary**

Candidates who already have a university degree may wish to determine their McGill Equivalent Cumulative Grade Point Average (cGPA) prior to making the decision to apply to a McGill University programme. Nearly all programmes offered by the university have cGPA requirements, with graduate studies generally requiring a 3.0 or higher in their bachelor (baccalaureate) degree. [SPOT's Qualifying Year to the MScA](#) has a requirement of 3.0 (Occupational Therapy) or 3.2 (Physiotherapy) for the bachelor degree; however, because of the large number of applicants, a stronger cGPA is nearly always needed to be competitive. Note that SPOT counts all courses which belonged to the bachelor degree in determining your average.

Generally, Canadian universities use the same 4.0 or 4.3 marking scheme; however, different schools may treat particular situations in different ways (failed courses, out-of-programme courses, repeated courses, etc). Universities outside of Canada may also use a 4.0 or 4.3 marking scheme; although, many make use of other scales. You may find a public listing of conversion scales on McGill's website at [www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/international/apply/equivalency](http://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/international/apply/equivalency)

To convert your marks, it is **not** acceptable to simply convert the average grade listed on your transcript. This is because the weight of each course and nuances in the scales may affect this number. Rather, you must convert each course mark individually, weigh it, and then determine an overall average.



## Conversion Steps

EXCELLENCE THROUGH GROWTH

### Step One:

Convert each course mark to its McGill equivalent.

*International Example (India): Distinction = 4.0; First Division = 3.7; Third Class = 2.0*



### Step Two:

Multiply the McGill equivalent mark by its credit value. Use the credit value provided by the university where you obtained the mark.

*International Example (India): 4.0 x 200 credits; 3.7 x 150 credits; 2.0 x 50 credits*



### Step Three:

Add the weighted McGill equivalent marks together and divide by the total number of credits. This is your McGill equivalent cGPA.

*International Example (India): 800 + 555 + 100 = 1,505 weighted total  
 $1,505 \div 400 \text{ credits} = 3.7625 \text{ weighted cGPA}$*



## Determining Credit Weight

The credit weight of a course is determined by the degree granting university. Generally, Canadian universities give three credits for a standard one-semester course and six for a double (all-year) course – some universities may use other systems. **You should not attempt to convert your credit system to the McGill scheme.** As long as you are consistent in applying a credit system, your McGill equivalency cGPA will be accurate.

Some schools refer to credits at *units*. Other universities, particularly in India and the Middle East, often do not list credits, but rather total point value (TPV). For these schools, your mark is a portion of the TPV (ex: 140/200). The TPV serves as the credit value.

Students who have transfer credit in their undergraduate degree from university using a different credit system than the degree-awarding institution will need to find a consistent way of applying credit weight. Using two different credit systems may skew the average as it may result in granting more weight to courses using a numerically higher credit weight system.

## Special Circumstances

The Qualifying Year only considers the courses that counted toward the bachelor degree in determining your overall cGPA. A course that did not count toward the degree (superfluous credits, extra electives, etc) is not factored in when determining your overall cGPA. An attempt at credits (ex: a course for which a failing mark was awarded and that would have counted toward your degree had a passing mark been awarded) is factored into to your degree.

Repeated courses are treated on a case-by-case basis.

Exchanges, transfers, and interuniversity partnership course work is considered in determining the cGPA on the condition that the credit was used toward your degree. For example, an applicant who took an online course at a recognised university while attending a bachelor at another school would have the online course included in determining the cGPA as long as the course was accepted by the degree-awarding university. When including transferred credit, it is necessary to convert the transferred credit system and marking scheme first to the degree-granting university's scale, then the McGill scale. This allows for a fair comparison.

## Alternative Canadian Scales

*Provided for informational purposes. May be subject to change without notice – use with caution*

Scale	9-Point Scale	10-Point Scale	4.3 Scale	4.0 scale with 0.5s	McGill Equivalent
<b>Example University</b>	University of Victoria	University of Ottawa	Concordia University	University of Manitoba	NA
<b>Potential Marks</b>	9 or A+	10 or A+	4.3 or A+	4.5 or A+	<b>4.0 or A</b>
	8 or A	9 or A	4.0 or A	4 or A	<b>4.0 or A</b>
	7 or A-	8 or A-	3.7 or A-	NA	<b>3.7 or A-</b>
	6 or B+	7 or B+	3.3 or B+	3.5 or B+	<b>3.3 or B+</b>
	5 or B	6 or B	3.0 or B	3.0 or B	<b>3.0 or B</b>
	4 or B-	NA	2.7 or B-	NA	<b>2.7 or B-</b>
	3 or C+	5 or C+	2.3 or C+	2.5 or C+	<b>2.3 or C+</b>
	2 or C	4 or C	2.0 or C	2.0 or C	<b>2.0 or C</b>
	NA	NA	1.7 or C-	NA	<b>2.0 or C</b>
	1 or D	3, 2 or D+, D	1 or D	1.0 or D	<b>1.0 or D</b>
	0 or E, F, N	0, 1 or E, F, N	0 or F	0.0 or E, F	<b>0 or F</b>

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## Link to International Scales

[www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/international/apply/equivalency](http://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/international/apply/equivalency)

## International Conversion Example

\*\* Please note that other scales for China may exist. The information provided herein is to assist applicants in understanding the steps to calculate cGPA. Please always refer to the scales provided above and-or on McGill's website. Further note that this example has been shorted for brevity. Most degrees consist of twenty or more courses.

EXCELLENCE THROUGH GROWTH

### Chinese Scale:

Chinese Grade	Chinese Percent	Chinese Description	McGill Grade Point After Conversion
A	90 – 100	Excellent	4.0
B	80 – 89	Good	3.0
C	70 - 79	Average	2.0
D	60 – 69	Pass	1.0
F	0 – 59	Fail	0

### Student's Transcript from a Chinese University:

Date	Course	Credits	Mark	Notes
2016-Autumn	BIO234: Human Anatomy	4	92	
2016-Autumn	PHYS301: Musculoskeletal Structures	2	81	
2016-Autumn	ENG103: Fundamentals of Academic English	2	91	
2016-Autumn	UND100: Moral Education	2	55	Fail
2017-Winter	CHEM204: Introductory Pharmacology	2	92	
2017-Winter	PHYS312: Exercise Physiology	4	73	
2017-Winter	PHYS398: Select Topics in Physiology	4	88	
2017-Winter	SOCI201: Sociology of Sport	2	78	



## cGPA Calculations using above Chinese Transcript:

Course	Credits	Chinese Mark	McGill Mark	Weighted Mark
<b>BIO234: Human Anatomy</b>	4	92	4.0	16
<b>PHYS301: Musculoskeletal Structures</b>	2	81	3.0	6
<b>ENG103: Fundamentals of Academic English</b>	2	91	4.0	8
<b>UND100: Moral Education</b>	2	55	0	0
<b>CHEM204: Introductory Pharmacology</b>	2	92	4.0	8
<b>PHYS312: Exercise Physiology</b>	4	73	2.0	8
<b>PHYS398: Select Topics in Physiology</b>	4	88	3.0	12
<b>SOCI201: Sociology of Sport</b>	2	91	4.0	8
<b>Totals:</b>	22	NA	NA	66

### Calculation:

The applicant obtained 22 credits eligible for cGPA with a weighted total of 66.  
 $66 \div 22 \text{ credits} = 3.0$

The applicant's McGill Equivalent cGPA is **3.0**.

**NOTE:** For brevity, this example only includes two semesters. A typical bachelor degree would be six to eight full time semesters (20 – 40 courses).